Grand Coulee Reach TMDL Project Proposal
May 2008

Proposal

Develop a temperature TMDL for the Columbia River segment between the Canadian border and tailrace of Grand Coulee Dam.

Technical Problem Scope

- Temperature compliance at the tailrace of Grand Coulee Dam.

- No modeling for TMDL
- Use comparison of measured temperatures at Canadian border and tailrace to identify departure from water quality standards (see attached graphical depiction of TMDL)
- Same as Hells Canyon TMDL method and Willamette TMDL method (tributary dams)
- This is daring in its simplicity – a TMDL almost entirely focused on one source

- Scope does not include temperature compliance within Lake Roosevelt
- Focus on fall shift and downstream anadromous fish
- Complexity of lake evaluation – standards interpretation, unclear implementation options (if any), need for 2D model

- 2D model may be developed by Bureau to evaluate attainability, compliance options, or further refine the TMDL itself (though agencies can move TMDL ahead without it)

EPA/Ecology Workload Breakdown

- EPA provides technical support and high level of program engagement (TMDLs and WQ Standards)

- Ecology writes the TMDL, runs public process, and issues the TMDL

TMDL + UAA

EPA is open to idea of parallel TMDL and UAA, if the Bureau commits to developing and applying a 2D water quality model to answer UAA questions within 2 years of project initiation.

Next Step

- Meet with Ecology